

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-08 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /093 W

-----101126Z 122957 /17

R 101100Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 982

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL DOUALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 623

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR, SP, EG

SUBJ: GOS MISSION TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REF: (A) MADRID 795 (B) 76 YAOUNDE 915 (C) 76 YAOUNDE 4791

(D) YAOUNDE 4453

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE PICK UP FURTHER BACKGROUND ON GOS MISSION AND HOW IT TIED INTO WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING EG PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

2. FIRST, BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE NOTED PARA 2 REFTTEL A IN TERMS OF WHO MACIE CONSIDERS HIS FRIENDS, THAT REFTTEL B GIVES FURTHER INFO. FROM CONVERSATIONS WHICH AMBASSADOR AND DOUALA CONSUL HAD PRIOR THEIR MARCH 76 PNG'ING, IT CLEAR THAT MACIE DOES NOT GET ALONG WITH ANY REAL OR POTENTIAL AID DONORS; THIS INCLUDES COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, SPAIN, FRANCE, AND UNDP. ALL HAVE PROBLEMS OF ACCESS, LACK OF EG FOLLOW-THROUGH AND ALMOST EG INDIFFERENCE OR HOSTILITY TOWARDS POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND PERSONNEL ALREADY ASSIGNED CARRY OUT PROJECTS. AS REPORTED REFTTEL B, CUBANS WITHDREW TWO AGRICULTURAL ADVISERS DUE EG UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY UTILIZE THEIR SERVICES.

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3. APPARENTLY MISSION VISIT VAGUELY TIED IN CONTRETEMPS WHICH OCCURRED LAST DECEMBER (REFTTEL C) WHEN ALMOST ENTIRE CABINET ARRESTED (EXCEPT FOR FOREIGN MINISTER BONIFACIO NGUEMA ESONO ACHAMA AND DANIEL MBA OYONO AYINGONO, WHO NOW ACTING AS HEAD MINISTRIES FINANCE, ECONOMY AND SECURITY AND, IN ABSENCE LIFE PRESIDENT, GENERAL DICTATOR MACIE NGUEMA BIYOGO

NEGUE NDONG ISLAND).. STORY FROM RECENT VISITORS TO ISLAND IS THAT ALMOST WHOLE CABINET CONCERNED AT LACK FORWARD MOVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT EQUATORIAL GUINEA SINCE INDEPENDENCE. CONSENSUS OF MEETING WAS THAT THEY SHOULD PUT FORWARD A RECOMMENDAION TO PRESIDENT MACIE SUGGESTING TIME WAS RIPE FOR RAPPROCHMENT TO SPANISH. CAPTAIN TEODORE NGUEMA MBASOGO, NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER, VOLUNTEERED PERSONALLY PRESENT PETITION. AFTER ALL SIGNED, HE SUPPOSEDLY OOK PETITION TO PRESIDENT AND CLAIMED ALL WERE INVOLVED IN TRYING REPLACE MACIE. RESULT IS ALL OF CABINET, EXCEPT TEODORO, BONIFACIO AND DANIEL (WHO INCIDENTALLY ALL BELONG MONGOMO FANG, SAME AS PRESIDENT) WERE THROWN IN ALMMER. IT UNCLEAR WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE, ALTHOUGH RECENT TRAVELERS REPORT UP TO FOUR KNOWN DEAD INCLUDING BUENEVENTURA OCHAGA NGOMO ABESO, MINISTER OF PEOPLE'S EDUCATION; NEMESIO ABAGA OBURU, VICE MINISTER PLAN; JESUS ALFONSO OYONO ALAGO, SECRETARY STATE IN CHARGE OF MISSIONS; AND OOBERTO NSUE MICHA MBO, VICE MINISTER POPULAR CONSTRUCTION.

4. WHILE WE NOT ENTIRELY SURE OF NAMES, SINCE POSITIONS ONLY GIVEN IN SEVERAL INSTANCES AND GARBLED IN OTHERS, SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT BUENEVENTURA WAS ALSO SECTY. GEN. OF PUNT AND AT DINNER MARCH 5, 1976, SEATED NEXT TO PRESIDENT. NOBERTO ALSO USED BE HEAD OF SECURITY AND KNOWN RIVAL TO DANIEL OYONO, THE PRESIDENT'S NEPHEW AND DEFACTO RULER OF ISLAND. THEREFORE, IF THESE REPORTS TO BE BELIEVED, DANIEL HAS PROBABLY STRENGTHENED HIS CONTROL OVER PARTY AND SECURITY APPARATUS.

5. SPANISH HAVE APPARENTLY WANTED SEND MISSION TO SEE MACIE
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SINCE NOVEMBER 18 DEMONSTRATIONS (REFTEL D). HOWEVER, INTERVENING ARREST OF MOST OF CABINET AND GENERALLY UNSETTLED CONDITIONS CAUSED POSTPONEMENT UNTIL LATE JANUARY. SKETCHY REPORTS HERE INDICATE THAT MISSION WAS CONSIDERED SUCCESS IN THAT IT UPDATED SOME PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO AND HAD EFFECT OF CALMING REMAINING SPANISH POPULATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977YAOUND00623
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770047-1131
Format: TEL
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770252/aaaabuep.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b03d74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRID 795, 76 YAOUNDE 915, 76 YAOUNDE 4791, 77 YAOUNDE 4453
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3349638
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOS MISSION TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA
TAGS: PFOR, SP, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b03d74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009